DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 259 191 CE 041 919

TITLE	Bilingual Vocational Training Programs (BVTP's): FY80-FY85.
INSTITUTION	Connecticut State Dept. of Education, Hartford. Div. of Vocational-Technical Schools.
PUB DATE	85
NOTE	7p.; For related documents, see CE 041 920-922.
PUB TYPE	Reports - Descriptive (141)
EDRS PRICE	MF01/PC01 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS	*Adult Basic Education; Agency Cooperation; *Bilingual Education; Cooperative Planning; Dropout Programs; Educational Cooperation; Enrollment; Individual Needs; Job Development; Job Placement; *Job Training; *Limited English Speaking; Models; Program Content; Program Descriptions; Second Language Instruction; Simulation; Statewide Planning; *Vocational Education; Youth Programs
IDENTIFIERS	Connecticut; *Vocational English as a Second Language

ABSTRACT

Bilingual vocational training programs (BVTPs) are provided at 10 regional vocational-technical schools (RVTSs) throughout Connecticut. The BVTP model is based on the following components: job-entry trade and related education skills taught bilingually, job-specific English-as-a-second-language (ESL) instruction, preventive counseling and a life coping skills course, case management of trainees' problems related to such areas as transportation and child care, job development and placement, and analysis of the labor market to select training areas with job demand that are matched to RVTS' training capabilities and compatibility with participants' culture. The BVTPs receive technical assistance, supportive and instructional materials, and computer courseware from the Connecticut Division of Vocational-Technical Schools. The Fiscal Year (FY) 85 budget for BVTP programming was $270,000. In the period encompassing FY80 through and including FY84, BVTPs served a total of 735 Connecticut residents; 508 students received BVTP services in FY85. (MN)

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CONNECTICUT STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL SCHOOL SYSTEM

BILINGUAL VOCATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAMS (BVTP'S): FY80-FY85

ED259191

Need

Connecticut ranks ninth in the nation in the number of limited English proficient (LEP) out-of-school youth and adults. The LEP condition is often accompanied by low basic skills, and personal and family problems. Hispanics are, by far, the predominant LEP subgroup in the state.

Model

The Division of Vocational-Technical Schools (DVTS) provides Bilingual Vocational Training Programs (BVTP's) at Regional Vocational-Technical Schools (RVTS's). The BVTP model is based on the following: (1) job-entry trade and related education skills taught bilingually, complemented by (2) job-specific English as a Second Language (ESL); preventive counseling and a life coping skills course; (4) case management of trainees' problems, including transportation and child care; (5) job development/placement and (6) an analysis of the labor market to select training areas with job demand, matched to the RVTS' capability to train in those trades and their cultural compatibility with the potential participants.

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The BVTP model replicates successful strategies of effective adult training programs and adds the bilingual education and job-specific ESL components. It is more cost/effective than the customary strategy that obliges the LEP persons to learn sufficient ESL and basic education skills before they can enroll in training programs leading to employment. The BVTP provides a practical, hands-on simulation of the workplace that appeals to adults. It shortens considerably the time needed by the adult to develop marketable skills.

Inter-Agency Collaboration

To serve persons of low income levels, who usually have multiple needs and may have to progress through several education and training programs to reach economic self-sufficiency, the coordination and articulation of programs and support services is critical. Furthermore, most institutions have specialized activities or expertise in individual components, such as outreach/recruitment or referral capability.

The BVTP's are, therefore, supported by an infrastructure of inter-agency collaboration in every town in which they are provided, as follows:

Bridgeport : RVTS, DHR, Goodwill Industries, Private Industry Council (PIC), Dinan Memorial Center, ABCD, International Institute.

Danbury; RVTS, DHR, Hispanic Cultural Society, Danbury Community Action Committee, International Institute of Bridgeport.

Hartford : RVTS, PIC, Hispanic Health Council, Hartford Hospital, CRT, Catholic Charities.

Meriden: RVTS, DHR, Casa Boricua, PIC, Community Action Agency, Meriden Public Schools, Job Service, City Department of Social Services, Corometrics Medical System.

New Britain: RVTS, DHR, PIC, Spanish Speaking Center, Human Resources Agency, South Congregational Church, New Britain General Hospital, Monsignor Mojnoewski Manor, Andrew House Health Care Center, Community Action for Greater MIddletown, Hispanic Vocational Education Program/Middletown.

New Haven: Hamden RVTS, City of New Haven Department of Housing and Neighborhood Development, Hispanic Employment Advisory Committee, PIC, JUNTA, Community Action Agency, South Central Community College, LULAC Educational Service Center, Latino Youth Development, Jewish Home for the Aged.

New London: Groton RVTS, Centro de la Comunidad.

Stamford: RVTS, Hispanic Task Force, Southfield Community Organization, Easter Seal Rehabilitation Center.

Waterbury: RVTS, DHR, Spanish Action Council, NOW.

Willimantic: RVTS, PROP, Mansfield Training School, Northeast Utilities.

Strategy: Economic Self-Sufficiency

Following is a chart of the coordinated, articulated programs for the LEP out-of-school youth and adults that the BVTP's strive to achieve, through technical assistance, in each pertinent town, in sequential order, from the perspective of the target group. Support services are not included, nor ABE and GED programs, because they are linked to the BVTP's in each town and should be assumed to be related to almost every other program below:

1
Displaced Homemaker Programs
and
Feeder Programs

2
BVTP's

3
Employment

4
Employment
and
Bilingual Pre-Advanced
Training

5
Employment
and
Advanced Training

6
Economic
Self-Sufficiency

For the LEP individual with a trade or profession, job-specific ESL should be available.

Replications, Variations and Miscellany

1. Since FY81 the Hartford PIC has provided a Metal Machine Training Program with a bilingual component. Since FY82 the Stamford Public Schools have been furnishing a BVTP funded directly by the U.S. Department of Education.
2. The Willimantic RVTS provided job-specific ESL and the life coping skills course, and the Mansfield Training School subsequently hired the trainees and taught them the Mental Retardation Aide skills bilingually.
3. The New Britain and Willimantic RVTS's provided a Meter Reading BVTP to residents of 10 towns, covering their transportation costs, for employment by Northeast Utilities, which provided in-kind staff and curricular input.
4. A regional approach is used for residents of towns with fewer LEP's, covering their transportation costs.
5. About 60% of the trainees are women, many displaced homemakers. A majority of the trainees are on public assistance rolls, workfare clients are welcome.
6. Action-oriented Policy/Operations Committees meet on a scheduled basis, in each town, to review the inter-agency collaboration, detect problems and agree on corrective actions, and seek initiatives for increased programs.

Technical Support

1. The DVTS provides technical assistance to BVTP's, and related programs and services, encompassing comprehensive planning, needs assessments and pre- and in-service training.

2. The DVTS has developed supportive materials: a Bilingual Vocational Education Library, with an accompanying Bibliographical List; the in-house newsletter, BVT FLASH!; the Manual for Instructors in BVTP's; the Life Coping Skills Manual; the Inventory of Bilingual Vocational Materials and the Directorio Hispano. A Directory of Agencies Serving Hispanics in Connecticut. The DVTS helped develop the SDE-funded An Hispanic Agenda. Meeting the Employment and Training Needs of Hispanics in Connecticut.

3. A capability to generate computer courseware has been developed by the DVTS. A manual, Computer-assisted Language Learning in Bilingual Vocational Education and an accompanying diskette with 6 programs to produce courseware are available to staff, which will be trained in the development and use of courseware. The BVTP's will use the materials in FY85 in the RVTS's Computer Laboratory Centers.

Funding

The DVTS' BVTP's are funded from the "set aside for the disadvantaged" vocational education budget item ($270,000 in FY85).

To better meet needs, additional funding support has been attained from the State Department of Human Resources (DHR), which in FY85 continues to consist of the following: (1) Danbury: Circuit Board Assembler BVTP and 2 BVTP's for Asian refugees; (2) Waterbury: Food Services BVTP; (3) 2 BVTP's each for Asian refugees in Bridgeport and Hartford; (4) Bridgeport, Meriden and New Britain: outreach/recruitment; assessment of aptitudes, interests and levels of achievement; case management and job development/placement. The DHR support is provided through community -based organizations (CBO's) and contracts with the SDE.

JTPA funding has been achieved in 4 towns (Bridgeport, Meriden, Waterbury and New Britain). In addition, networks for integrated and coordinated delivery of the BVTP's and support services have been attained in FY85 in the 10 towns with the most significant pockets of LEP populations.

Trade Offerings and Numbers Served, By Town - - FY80-FY84

FY/Town	Trade Areas	# Served	Total
80			
[illegible]dgeport	Machine Shop	12	
	Nurse Aide	15	27
FY81			
Bridgeport	Machine Shop	10	
	Clerical	15	
Hartford	Gas & Oil Heat	15	
	Clerical	15	
Meriden	Machine Shop	12	
	Bing./Home Maint./Repair	12	
Waterbury	Machine Shop (2 cycles)	30	109
FY82			
Bridgeport	Basic Technical Drawing	15	
	Machine Shop/Quality Control	12	
	Nurse Aide	8	
Hartford	Pre-Vocational/Allied Health	15	
Meriden	Machine Shop/Quality Control	12	
New Britain	Food Services	18	
Bridgeport, Hartford,New Btn.	Displaced Homemaker Programs/ Bilingual Components	30	110
FY83			
Bridgeport	Nurse Aide (2 cycles)	32	
	Bing./Home Maint./Repair	11	
	Food Services	20	
Danbury	Nurse Aide	16	
Hartford	Pre-Vocational/Allied Health	25	
Meriden	Electronic Assembly	16	
	Nurse Aide	16	
New Britain	Food Services	17	
	Nurse Aide (3 cycles)	48	
Waterbury	Nurse Aide	16	
Willimantic	Mental Retardation Aide	20	237
FY84			
Bridgeport	Clerical	15	
	Nurse Aide (2 cycles)	32	
Hartford	Food Services	15	
	Nurse Aide	18	
Meriden	Electronic Assembly (2 cycles)	35	
New Britain	Food Services (2 cycles)	23	
	Nurse Aide (3 cycles)	48	
	Meter Reading	10	
New Haven/Hamden	Nurse Aide	16	
Waterbury	Nurse Aide	18	
Willimantic	Food Services	15	
	Meter Reading	7	252
TOTAL STUDENTS			735

Trade Offerings and Numbers Served, by Town - - FY85

Town	Trade Areas	Funds	# Served		Lan.
Bridgeport	Clerical	SDE	17		SP
	El. Assembly	JTPA	8		SP
	Adult Supportive	JTPA	14		SP
	Nurse Aide	SDE	13		SP
	Nurse Aide	SDE	16		SP
	Ass. Equip. Oper.	SDE	6		SP
	Printing	DHR	11		AS
	Sewing	DHR	12		AS
	Security Guard	SDE	4		SP
	Employability Sk	BPT	21	122	AS
Danbury	El. Assembly	DHR	12		SP
	Printing	DHR	10		AS
	Mach. Shop	DHR	14	36	AS
Gr/New Lond.	Nurse Aide	SDE	16		SP
	Ass. Equip. Oper.	SDE	5	21	SP
Ham/New Haven	Nurse Aide	SDE	17		SP
	Nurse Aide	SDE	18		SP
	Nurse Aide	JTPA	16		BL
	Food Services	JTPA	8	59	SP
Hartford	Nurse Aide	SDE	16		SP
	Machine Shop	DHR	12		AS
	Machine Shop	DHR	12		AS
	Occup.ESL	SDE	32	72	SP,PO
Meriden	Elec. Assembly	SDE	15		SP
	Elec. Assembly	SDE	15		SP
	Food Services	JTPA	10	40	SP
New Britain	Food Services	JTPA	12		SP
	Clerical	JTPA	15		SP
	Nurse Aide	JTPA	15		SP
	Nurse Aide	SDE	15		SP
	Nurse Aide	SDE	16	73	SP
Stamford	Nurse Aide	SDE	6		SP
	Employ. Skills	SDE	11	17	SP
Waterbury	Food Services	DHR	10		SP
	Maintenance	JTPA	8		SP
	Nurse Aide	SDE	16		SP
	Nurse Aide	SDE	12		SP
	Security Guard	SDE	10	56	SP
Willimantic	Nurse Aide	SDE	12	12	SP

TOTAL # SERVED 508

REPLICATIONS

Stamford Public Schools	Machine Shop/Clerical	60
REEC/New Haven	Clerical	15
Midlin Technical Institute	Maintenance	20

TOTAL # SERVED 95

GRAND TOTAL # SERVED 603

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